



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

APR 18 2002

Indian Health Service
Rockville MD 20857

Dear Tribal Leader:

The fiscal year (FY) 2002 appropriation included \$5 million to provide equipment for up to two projects through the Joint Venture Construction Program (JVCP). Since no tribes having projects on the Indian Health Service (IHS) Outpatient Facilities Construction Priority List were interested, and pursuant to the appropriation language, the funds are available now on a competitive basis for outpatient projects which have not entered the construction phase. Priority will be given to tribes that do not have an existing Federally-owned outpatient health facility. In addition, tribes must possess the administrative and financial capabilities to provide a health facility, and will have planning documents in accordance with IHS planning requirements. If your tribe desires to participate in the IHS FY 2002 JVCP, please complete and return the enclosed intent form by May 15. Detailed proposal instructions will be provided to tribes desiring to participate.

The authorization for the JVCP is contained in Section 818(e) of The Indian Health Care Improvement Act, Public Law (P.L.) 94-437, as amended by P.L. 107-63 for the FY 2002 appropriation. Under a JVCP agreement, an Indian tribe expends tribal, private, or other authorized funds for the acquisition or design and construction of a tribally owned outpatient health facility. In exchange, the IHS is to equip the health facility, and under a no-cost lease for a minimum of 20 years, the IHS is to include funding to staff, operate and maintain the facility in its budget requests. Any staff quarters needed to support the health facility are a part of the project and will be included in the planning documents. However, the tribe will be the owner of the staff quarters and responsible for all costs for their construction and the subsequent operation and maintenance.

If you have any questions, please contact Capt. José F. Cuzme, P.E., Director, Division of Facilities Planning and Construction, at 301-443-1851.

Sincerely yours,

Bruce R. Chelikowsky, R.S.
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Health
and Engineering
Office of Public Health

Enclosure